



Casemate

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2003 Year in Review



Hurricane, new construction, music make year memorable

BY PATRICK BUFFETT
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Some will remember a warm summer evening at Walker Airfield and the "sea of humanity" eagerly awaiting Tracy Byrd's opening number.

Others may recall their first glimpse of the new fitness center's brightly lit lobby and its large stone fireplace that gives it the "feel" of a four-star hotel.

It's far more likely; however, that a majority of Fort Monroe community members would associate the most memorable moment of 2003 with the day a category two hurricane launched a direct assault on the Hampton Roads area.

"Isabel changed our lives so profoundly that it did indeed become the defining moment of the past year," said Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, post commander. "What I find particularly interesting, though, is the positive impact that event had on our community. In a sense, it strengthened our spirit, and that's something that's going to last well into 2004 and beyond."

Temporarily tabling further discussion about the hurricane, Allmendinger reflected on other events of 2003. He recalled the excitement of an early July evening when the post capped off another successful Fourth at the Fort celebration with not only its traditional

fireworks, but also a first-time USO concert featuring Tracy Byrd and Kellie Coffey.

"The 2003 summer concert series was a first for us," the colonel said. "It was something I wanted to bring over here to this side of the tunnel ever since I took command. And, thanks to some great support by Mr. Jeff Hill and the USO, our MWR special events folks and the sponsors of course, we really pulled it off in a big way."

Allmendinger said he felt the true impact of that event when he first stepped out on stage to introduce the opening act and gazed out over the "sea of humanity" anxiously awaiting the music to start.

"This was about communities coming together and truly appreciating the spirit of patriotism," he said, noting that the success of the allied liberation of Baghdad was still being celebrated across America at that point. "And the performers sang their hearts out. They expressed what all of us felt about our military. They gave the show of a lifetime ... I have no doubt about that."

The post "hung" its second USO concert — featuring Sara Evans and Aaron Lines — on the popularity of the annual Hampton Cup Regatta, conducted here each year around mid-August. Weather concerns had an impact on attendance (See YEAR IN REVIEW, Page 10)



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Soldiers of U.S. Army Accessions Command show off their holiday spirit during the post's Dec. 12 Jingle Bell Run. For more photos, see page 6.

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TRADOC CG's
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Commentary

Holiday season — a time of faith, hope as we look forward to the New Year

Throughout America and around the world the holiday season is known by many names – Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, the Festival of Winter and so on – but its meaning is much the same.

It is a time of faith ... a time to celebrate the human capacity for goodness, kindness and sharing. It is a time to welcome loved ones home or send extra reminders of our love to those mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers who serve their nation in the name of freedom in the faraway lands of Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and South Korea,

It is a time of hope. And a time when we can reflect back on those obstacles we continue to rise above – be it the direct hit of a category two hurricane or the senseless 9-11 deaths of thousands who will keep their place in our hearts even in this season of celebration and joy.

In our darkest moments our faith and our God are with us, giving us strength to overcome. Humanity flourishes where there is love. Chaos flourishes where it is absent.

Let us remember now and always to pray for those in our



Col. Perry D. Allmendinger
Post Commander

armed forces. These men and women keep us safe ... away from chaos. We are grateful for their commitment, loyalty and devotion to duty. Let us also pray for their families whose courage, sacrifice and steadfastness are inspiring to us all.

And, as we look to the New Year, we can only hope and pray as individuals and as a nation that each day of 2004 will be used to build peace and friendship between nations, people and faiths, and that

Merry Christmas, prosperous New Year wishes

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of Fort Monroe a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. What a great time of the year to reflect on the many accomplishments of the entire community. Thanks to all the soldiers and civilians who execute the daily missions of Fort Monroe at such level of expertise. Spouses, thanks for the continued support of the soldiers and civilians.

It's my prayer that as we spend quality time with our families, that we practice safety in all we do. Take some time to whisper a prayer for our soldiers and the families that are in harm's way.

For those traveling abroad,



Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Browning, Post CSM

safe travels. I look forward to seeing you as we embark on a great New Year at Fort Monroe.

Chaplain's corner

Healing is possible for lonely during 'unhappy' holidays

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn," Isaiah 61:1,2

The holiday season is not always a season of decking the halls with boughs of holly. For many, the holiday is a time of regression. In most cases the regression is a painful one. Because of bad memories, not everyone will be singing a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Speaking to our Protestant Women of the Chapel this week, I raised the question, "Where can individuals turn for help when they see Christmas as a time of loneliness and sadness?" For example, there are people who detest the holiday season because of what it brings to them each year, and that

is pain from the past.

Some have referred to this season as "Blue Christmas." For these people Christmas is a sad time of the year. It is a reminder of bad times. This is when isolation creeps in, and instead of a season of joy and celebration, it is the season of dread and solitude. Some call it the "holiday blues." Despite being with friends and loved ones, isolation and loneliness continues to be ways of getting through the holidays.

There is help for those experiencing the effect of unhappy holidays. In Matthew's Gospel we read, "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel which means, 'God with us.'" The good news is this: even in isolation we are not out of God's reach. God is with us through the good and bad of life.

The Prophet Isaiah speaks words of hope for all who are unhappy and lonely. He assures us that although in captivity, release is on the way. The God of all comfort will provide a place where lonely people will no

more and more people will commit to the vocation of peacemaker.

Let it be known that our wishes of Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad, or even a simple "happy holidays," are expressions of the spirit of hope that bind soldier and civilian; politician and poor farmer; Muslim and Mormon.

longer be in isolation. They will be released from the prisons within. One may be free on the outside, but find a prison within the darkness of the soul. When a person is in bondage the past provides many unhappy days. People living isolated lives are prone to depression and loneliness. Healing *can* take place for those who experience the holiday blues — by reaching out and loving others. To love is to risk. No one is ever isolated when they encounter a relationship with God.

In Jeremiah 30:17 the Prophet states, "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares." The good news this advent season is that God cares, and no one is an outcast. No one has to live unhappy and isolated. God can heal the past through the love of family, friends and the community of faith in which one lives. Clergy and faith of individuals can help restore a sense of belonging in God's family and in society.



Chaplain (Maj.) Wilbert Harrison
Post Chaplain

This season God wants to meet and comfort you no matter where you are. God is here, and God knows what we need to live happy lives.

Where do lonely people go this time of year? They go to God, who is the Comforter — the one who is called "Immanuel." This means he is also with us in our isolation.

God Bless and have a Merry Christmas.

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What would you like for Christmas this year?



Alex Taylor, 10

"I want a Game Boy Advanced."



Hannah Redden, 4

"A daddy horsey, roller coaster for a pony and a horsey bracelet."



Jadia Hull, 2

"A doggy because (my friend) has a doggy."



Justin Davis, 13

"Money and a cell phone."



Caleb Bates, 4

"A track for my train."



Corinne Vranas, 4

"I want Santa to give me a froggy."



Omar Santiago, 13

"I want to be with all my family members at one time, including those I have not known, like my stepfather's people. I have people in Orlando and Puerto Rico."



Allen Petersen, 14

"You may think it's strange, but I really want a monkey. I think they are cool."



Ryan Shwedo, 15

"Money and a job so I can save up for a car. Also, I hope Iraq will become less violent and we will catch Bin Ladin."



Devin Turner, 9

"I don't really want anything. I would like to hand out food to people who don't have any because I like helping people."

Case ending school segregation commemorated

BY DONNA CAMPBELL
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The theme for the 2004 African American/Black History Observance is "Brown v. Board of Education (50th Anniversary)" which commemorates the landmark Supreme Court decision to desegregate public schools.

Linda Brown, a black 8 year old, walked five miles to school each day in the Topeka, Kan. school district. Linda could not attend the all-white public school a few blocks from her home because the school system was racially segregated, and under the separate but equal doctrine established by Plessy v. Ferguson, this arrangement was legal. This doctrine stated that separate public facilities of equal quality did not violate the 14th Amendment.

Oliver Brown, Linda's father, sued the Topeka Board of Education in federal district court on the basis that separate school facilities for blacks were inherently unequal. The state argued that the school facilities were equal. Lower courts agreed with the school system that if the facilities were equal, then the child was being treated the same as whites, as prescribed by the 14th Amendment. The Browns, and families in other school systems, enlisted the help of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to appeal their case before the Supreme Court. Thurgood Marshall, then head of the NAACP, argued that, although school facilities may be physically equal, "intangible" factors were not taken into account, and segregation itself deprived minority children of

equal education opportunities.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously to end racial segregation in public schools. Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered the court's decision and claimed that "in the eyes of the law, justice is color-blind." Warren stressed the importance of education in America:

"Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public respon-

sibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms."

Justice Earl Warren, 1954.

Essay contest

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landmark desegregation case, Brown v. Board of Education, Fort Monroe will sponsor an essay contest.

- ❑ Topic: "Discuss why the Brown case is important to our history today"
- ❑ Who can enter: Children in the Fort Monroe community
- ❑ Categories: Grades 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12
- ❑ Criteria: Entries must be two pages or less, double-spaced (typed or handwritten).

Entries will be judged by a panel for accuracy, content, clarity and originality. Each essay must have a cover sheet, which includes the student's name, grade, school and home telephone number.

❑ Deadline: Mail or deliver entries to: Post Equal Opportunity Office, 60 Ingalls Road, ATTN: Sgt. 1st Class Selvin Walker, Building 82, Room 243, Fort Monroe, VA 23651 or email entries to walkers@monroe.army.mil.

❑ Contest runs through Jan. 16, 2004. Entries received after Jan. 16 will be disqualified.

❑ Prizes: Three winners will be awarded in each category: First, \$75; Second, \$50; Third, \$25.

The first place essay in each category will be read during Fort Monroe's African-American/Black History Program Feb. 5.

For more information, contact Donna Campbell, (757) 788-4721 or Walker, (757) 788-3363.

*Sgt. Maj. Johei Hay-
atasu is presented a
memento from Com-
mand Sgt. Maj. Perry
L. Roberts, Army
Accessions Command,
at the Bay Breeze
Community Center,
Dec. 10.*



Photo by Patrick Buffett

Japanese delegates eye training, Iraq lessons learned during visit

BY PATRICK BUFFETT
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Expressing a desire to “tap into” Iraq lessons learned and training procedures associated with the Army NCO corps, a five-member Japanese Self-Defense Force delegation paid a visit to Fort Monroe Dec. 10.

Led by Sgt. Maj. Johei Hayatasu, the highest-ranking NCO in the Japanese Army’s training division, the delegation also included sergeants major from their systems development, central intelligence, and personnel and assignment departments.

“As you know, the government of Japan is deploying soldiers to Iraq very soon,” Hayatasu said. “Unfortunately, we lack experience in that environment, and our soldiers want to know what to expect in the way of force protection and humanitarian-assistance requirements.

“So, one of the most important reasons we are here is to tap into lessons learned by your forces who have returned from that region,” Hayatasu added. “And our immediate mission upon our return will be to share what we learned very quickly and better prepare our troops.”

With earlier stops at forts Sill, Okla., and Bliss, Texas, Hayatasu said they’ve already learned a great deal. Before returning to Japan,

a visit to Fort Lewis, Wash., was also planned.

“The second part of our visit is to learn more about the NCO training system here,” Hayatasu said. “We want to make use of your successes in our own training program.”

Particularly impressed by the “huge role” U.S. Army NCOs play in the training of junior soldiers, Hayatasu said it’s a direction in which his forces need to head. “Our NCOs must also be involved more heavily in overall training development.”

The delegates also were very interested in the association of grade structures with specific professional development schools – sergeants and PLDC, for example, or staff sergeants and BNCOC, according to Sgt. Maj. Wilbur Benson, G-4 sergeant major for U.S. Forces Japan.

“I’ve also heard several favorable comments about the way NCOs are incorporated into all levels of the command structure,” Benson said.

The Fort Monroe visit also afforded Hayatasu an opportunity to renew acquaintances with an old-school chum. He was in the same class as Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Browning, post CSM, at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss.

“He is really a talented NCO ... very bright,” Hayatasu said.

News clips

Flu vaccine available; clinic holiday hours

Flu vaccines are available at Craven Army Health Clinic Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 -11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. for the following groups:

1. Active duty members on Fort Monroe.
2. Tricare prime members enrolled at the clinic who are 6-24 months or over 64 years old.
3. Tricare prime members enrolled at the clinic who have a high risk condition and have a note from their physician.

Clinic holiday hours: Dec. 24, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Dec. 25 and 26, closed; Dec. 31, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Jan. 1 and 2, closed.

For more information, call Sgt. Braithwaite at 314-8021 or Anthony Demestihis at 314-8044.

PX holiday hours

AAFES holiday hours are Dec. 24, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Dec. 25, closed; Dec. 26, Shopette, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and PX, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Dec. 31, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed; Jan. 2, Shopette, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; and PX, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Library to open soon

The library will be open and serving the customers starting Dec. 29. Shelving for the post library has been installed, and movers will be putting the books back in the building Dec. 22-23. While other furniture is on order, the staff will be working with folding tables. They plan to have a grand re-opening after the first of the year. For more information, call 788-2909.

Used Christmas trees wanted for resource program

The post’s Natural Resource Program needs old Christmas trees to stabilize the dunes at Dog Beach and create fish structure at Big Bethel Reservoir. Please bring trees to the collection area off Patch Road, by the soccer/softball field across from the moat. The area will be indicated by an orange safety fence. Trees will be collected from Dec. 26 through Jan. 11.

For more information, call Grady Wesson, post environmental office at 788-5364.

Service members can win RV two-week vacations

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service) – Service members can win a two-week RV vacation through a

contest which ends Dec. 31.

The RV Reunion Tour contest will award four grand prizes worth

over \$20,000 to servicemen and women who submit essays with the most compelling stories about the family and friends they would most like to reunite with during an RV vacation. Each grand-prize winner will receive a two-week vacation in a Class A (bus style) motorhome. Everyone who enters the contest will be provided with a voucher for \$50 to be used toward RV travel.

The RV Reunion Tour contest is sponsored by the military services’ Morale, Welfare and Recreation offices and GovArm.com. MWR provides quality support and recreational services that contribute to

the retention, readiness, and mental, physical and emotional well being of its servicemen and women. GovArm.com is a travel cooperative of MWR that provides leisure travel discounts for government and military personnel.

To enter the essay contest, military personnel can visit either elmonterv.com or govarm.com. The contest runs through Dec. 31. Winners will be announced in early 2004.

(Editor’s note: This release was submitted by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.)

3X3 Coastal Forms

Blood drive on post — Jan. 14
A Red Cross blood drive will be

held Jan. 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Community Center.

4th ID follows up big catch with operation in Samarra

BY JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

KIRKUK, Iraq, Dec. 17, 2003 – The Army’s 4th Infantry Division continued its aggressive fight against enemy cells with a raid in Samarra that picked up 73 men and a significant amount of material useful in making improvised explosive devices.

Army Maj . Gen. Raymond Ordierno, the division commander, said the operation against the Samarra cell continues. He said the operation acknowledges that despite the division’s capture of Saddam Hussein Dec. 13, a lot of work remains in Iraq.

“We think it was a complete cell we caught at a meeting,” Ordierno said during an interview in Kirkuk. He was in the northern Iraqi city to meet with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers.

Ordierno said 4th Infantry Division soldiers picked up nine other individuals from different cells operating in the area.

“Whenever we have more success, we get more intel and more fidelity,” the general said to reporters traveling with Myers. “We also have more people coming forward and giving us more info. That’s always helpful.”

The general said the division has had a number of problems in Samarra, and the city council asked the division for its help. Ordierno credits the young commanders and sergeants in his units for the successes.

“We’ve been here nine months now,” he said. “Every single day they go out there, they are at some risk. You never get a day off. Every day there is a potential that you will come into con-

flict. The mental toughness that our soldiers have shown has been absolutely unbelievable. The leaders that we are developing out of these young Americans is incredible. We don’t say enough about that.”

The young commanders have had to adapt to an enemy that can change tactics quickly. Ordierno said he sees another enemy change coming. He believes the cells might launch horror attacks. “I see them going to more horrific events – more suicide bombers, vehicle-borne IEDs – because everything else hasn’t worked, and they don’t have much else left,” he said.

He is incredulous at the fact that the former regime cells are already going after Iraqis. He said the Iraqi police and the Civil Defense Corps are common targets. “And they always kill innocent civilians at the same time,” he said.

One key to the division’s success has been the way it has integrated with special operations forces, Ordierno said. “We have been linked (with special operating forces) from the beginning,” he said. “The conventional and special operating forces are one, and I think that’s a big part of the success of nabbing Saddam Hussein and a lot of other things that we’ve done.”

The general said the division must continue to work on the intelligence aspect of operations in Iraq. “We are still working through the intelligence we captured with Saddam Hussein,” he said.

He said the number of incidents in his region – the most contested part of Iraq – has remained fairly constant, but the nature of the incidents has changed. “There are a lot of what I call ‘drive-by shootings,’” he said. “The attacks don’t require a lot of preparation and generally do not do any damage.”



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Proclamations for safety ...

Dr. Mamie Locke, Hampton mayor, and Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, post commander, sign a proclamation here Dec. 5, to “promote awareness of impaired driving problems and promote safer and healthier behaviors regarding the use of alcohol and drugs, and to provide opportunities for all to participate in ‘Take a Stand against Impaired Driving.’”

They also signed a proclamation indicating Dec. 19 as “Lights on for Life” Day. The City of Hampton and Fort Monroe communities and all motorists are called on to drive with their vehicles’ headlights on throughout the day as a memorial for the victims of impaired driving, and as a reminder of the dangers of drunk and drugged driving.

3X7 Ft. Monroe C.U.

3X7 Mayor’s Airport

Post community celebrates holidays



Photo by Patrick Buffett
Nina Griffin sings Christmas carols at the Fitness Center after the post tree lighting ceremony, Dec. 4. Santa Claus came in a short time later, and kids had the opportunity to have their pictures taken with him. Sgt. Robin Smith, accompanied by Sgt. Mike Webb, TUSCAB, were featured, with Smith singing "This Christmas."



Photo by Patrick Buffett
The Post Chapel's Sonshine Singers entertain the audience at the fitness center following the post's traditional tree lighting ceremony at Cannon Park, Dec. 4. Members are: (Front row, l-r) Lindsey White, Sarah Coile, Eryn Barnes, MaryBeth Knapp, Rylee Haga, Mary Kate Espinosa and Cara Caro; and (Back row, l-r) Theodore Hansen, Kendrick Freeman, Alexandra Taylor, Jahtisha Freeman, Clifton Caro, Jennifer Nelson and Elizabeth Cary.



Jingle Bell Run

Hundreds of Fort Monroe community members showed up for the Jingle Bell Run, Dec. 19. Decked out in holiday attire, they walked or jogged from the gazebo at Continental Park to the Bay Breeze Community Center for breakfast with Santa. From babies in strollers, to the fire truck carrying Santa Claus, young and old turned out to usher in the holidays.

See more photos on page 8.



Jingle Bell Run photos by Patricia Radcliffe
Two reluctant-looking "elves" wait for the Jingle Bell Run to start, Dec. 19.

Marines Toys for Tots ... Lt. Col. Paul Karafa (left), Cpl. Kevin Mallette (center) and Staff Sgt. Michael Braswell (right) pick up toys donated to Toys for Tots by Deputy Chief of Staff Intelligence employees, on Dec. 12. This was one of nine stops on post.

“We received superb support. It is astounding the amount of generosity people in this area showed,” Karafa said.

Braswell, Toys for Tots coordinator for the Peninsula, said that 7,600 children locally, and 5.7 million nationwide, received toys last year. So far, toys for 6,200 kids have been requested and last-minute requests are anticipated.

The Marine Corps reservists work with the Salvation Army to distribute the toys because they know which families need this type of assistance during the holidays. The distribution phase begins this week.



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

No war trophies allowed from Iraq, Afghanistan

BY JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 2003 – Do not even think about bringing back to the United States war trophies from your service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With about 140,000 American service members due to rotate out of Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command officials are very clear that service members cannot bring home weapons, ammunition and other prohibited items.

A few soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division understand how serious the command is. Some soldiers tried to smuggle weapons back from Baghdad, and they have gone through courts martial. Others received Article 15 administrative punishments. “There is a whole spectrum of punishments, depending on the severity of the offense,” said Maj. Robert Resnick, an Army lawyer at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, the commander of U.S. Central Command, has put out the policy. Basically, under no circumstances can individuals take as a souvenir an object that was formerly in the possession of the enemy. The taking of war trophies goes against the coalition mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

“We didn’t go into Iraq or Afghanistan to conquer them, but to liberate them,” said Marine
(See TROPHIES, Page 16)

2X4 Nat’l mortgage

4 X 10 GEICO

Fort Monroe wins national award for its environmental program

Fort Monroe was honored at the 50th Keep America Beautiful National Awards ceremony in Washington D.C., Dec. 5. The post received second place for the Keep Fort Monroe Beautiful program, a program established in 1980, in the national awards category for Beautification and Community Improvement.

Lt. Col. Craig Simoneau, director, Public Works and Logistics, accepted the award for Post Commander, Col. Perry D. Allmendinger.

Program elements as stated in the award package for this year's competition included: increased emphasis and expansion of recycling efforts, stormwater runoff quality and quantity, public education, contests, community cleanups, Earth Day/Arbor Day activi-

ties and bayscaping.

The award came at a time when Fort Monroe is beginning to plan for a new campaign called Project Pride. "I" Keep Fort Monroe Beautiful will continue the efforts of the original program and also include an Adopt-A-Spot program, environmental education for both children and adults and a new mayoral system to ensure the beauty of residential areas.

Photo at right: (l-r) Jennifer Guerrero and Grady Wesson, post environmental office; Lt. Col. Craig Simoneau, director, Public Works and Logistics; and Ray Empson, president, Keep America Beautiful Foundation; pose with award in Washington, D.C., Dec. 5.



Photo by Cable Risdon Photography (used with permission)

Pentagon welcomes OIF, OEF wounded heroes

BY JOE BURLAS

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 17, 2003) – Greeted by a loud chorus of more than eight minutes of sustained cheers and applause, 50 Soldiers recently wounded or injured in Iraq and Afghanistan visited the Pentagon Dec. 17.

The half-day trip was a break from the medical treatment the Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom Soldiers have been receiving for a month or more at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Several of the wounded Soldiers had tears streaming down their faces by the time they ran the gauntlet of hundreds of cheering Pentagon-based Soldiers and federal workers who lined both sides of the 100-yard corridor from where the recovering Soldiers entered to the inner ring of the building. Many greeters waved small handheld U.S. flags as they slapped backs and shook hands with the Central Command Soldiers.

Broken into three groups, the Soldiers and their family members were given a 90-minute

tour of the Pentagon by ceremonial guard troops representing each of the services. The backslapping, handshakes and well wishes continued as other Pentagon workers passed by the groups during the tour.

The majority of wounded and injured Soldiers were able to walk on their own during the tour – some missing an arm, some using a cane and others suffering from shrapnel wounds to the head, arms and legs. Four of the visitors were restricted to wheelchairs –

(See HEROES, Page 16)

More holiday photos (from page 6)



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Santa (Pete Yates) comforts apprehensive Morgan Kasulaitis as concerned classmates Travis Henderson (left) and Ciera Houston look on during his Dec. 12 visit to the Child Development Center.



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

1st Sgt. Pete VanDeRiet, the U.S. Continental Army Band, plays a Christmas song on his festively-decorated sousaphone prior to the Jingle Bell run, Dec. 12.

‘Green’ soldier captures attention of TRADOC CG

Basic trainee tells Gen. Byrnes about shortfalls in training

BY PATRICK BUFFETT
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Peter Green isn't your typical Army advisor. He hasn't been to a war college or even a war zone. In fact, his association with the U.S. military is little more than eight weeks old. Yet, Green had the attention of one of the Army's highest-ranking officers recently.

During a November visit to Fort Jackson, S.C., Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, TRADOC commander, was so intrigued by Pfc. Green's observations about basic training that he invited him to his headquarters at Fort Monroe to share those insights with recruiting and initial entry training developers under U.S. Army Accessions Command.

"I guess one of the main things he took an interest in was how I felt about the drill sergeants being stretched too thin," Green said during his three-day visit here Dec. 9 to 11. He was accompanied by his basic training "battle buddy," Pfc. Robert Sallings — an "older-brother-type," according to Green.

"It's also my understanding that the general was at Jackson to address the rigors of basic training," Sallings said. "We really didn't know that at the time, but there was Green going on about how he didn't feel basic was tough enough. I think he grabbed everyone's attention with that one."

Green also had plenty to say about the "lack of intensity" during certain portions of basic — hand-to-hand combat, for instance. And, in his opinion, the training schedule seemed so demanding that the drill sergeants, who were already working 16-hour days, had little or no time to stop and reinforce important field survival skills.

"I also questioned the effectiveness of some of the training ..." Green said.

"I also questioned the effectiveness of some of the training when there's only two drill sergeants available for a class of 55 recruits, many of them teenagers and not all particularly interested in the topic being discussed," Green said. "There has to be an issue of retainability there. The ratio of leaders to led is too high. It needs to be something like 15-to-1, or even 12-to-1."

Clearly, comments such as these would peak any Army training developer's curiosity, and it's easy to understand why Byrnes took such an interest in what this 22-year-old from Indianapolis had to say. What may come as a bit of a surprise, however, is that Green's in-depth analysis of basic training shortfalls was not the result of a "gung-ho" lifestyle, too many war movies or even a remote association with the military during his childhood years. He said it stems from the time when he was a "rebel without a clue."

"After I graduated from high school, I just



Photo by Patrick Buffett

Pfc. Peter Green (left), and "battle buddy," Pfc. Robert Sallings, talk about their experiences in basic training and life in general, at the TRADOC Public Affairs conference room, Dec. 11.

wandered," Green said. "I did a lot of odd jobs — mostly manual labor stuff, and I never stayed in one place very long. I was nomadic."

At some point, he decided to go to California to "find himself." Setting off with a round trip ticket and \$8 in his pocket, he spent about six months backpacking across the sunshine state.

"If nothing else, I learned to be aware of my surroundings," Green said. "And I got a taste of what it means to survive day-to-day by using whatever resources you had available. In a manner of speaking, I grew up."

Returning east, Green said he "served" one year at Indiana University before limited finances pushed him back out into the workforce. A later bout of curiosity prompted him to visit the Army website and download some of its literature. A couple of visits from an Army recruiter later, he was on his way to Jackson.

"I wouldn't classify myself as a super-recruit, but I did okay," Green said.

"Here is a very important general who comes to Fort Jackson one day and decides to hold court with 12 privates," Sallings said.

"And I didn't set out to pick basic training apart — I guess it's just that level of awareness you develop when you're used to being out on your own. But I'm very grateful that I was given the opportunity to express my point of view."

"I think that's one of the greatest aspects of this whole situation," Sallings added. "Here is a very important general who comes to Fort Jackson one day and decides to hold court with 12

privates. Green starts talking, and he was genuinely interested ... it struck a nerve. That's so smart, recognizing that some of the best ideas can come from the bottom as well as the top."

"I think it says a lot about the Army ... that they'll take good ideas wherever they come from," Green continued. "Since we've been here, we've heard quite a bit about the 'culture of innovation.' The Army has really started to take notice of what troops on the job have to say. I think this is a good example of that commitment."

Sgt. 1st Class Billie J. Miranda, the Army Drill Sergeant of the Year who serves as an advisor to Accessions Command and escorted Green and Sallings during their visit, referred to the duo as "prime examples of the level of intelligence among today's recruits."

"They're not dumb, and they're not robots. We need to listen to what they have to say," Miranda said. "To coin a saying used by (Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Williams, TRADOC CSM), 'When you want to know what's going on in prison, you don't ask the warden, you talk to the guards.'"

"I also want to acknowledge my drill sergeant buddies at Jackson," Miranda added. "These soldiers have demonstrated professionalism every step of the way, and they're great examples of excellent training drill sergeants provide day in and day out."

After a short Christmas break — known as EXODUS in initial entry training circles — Green and Sallings will both head for the Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., where they will study Korean and earn their 98X, crypto-linguist, Army skill identifier.

Stop Loss moves ACAP counseling forward

WASHINGTON (Army News Service,) — Some Soldiers planning to leave the Army may get their pre-separation counseling a little sooner than expected due to the Army's recent implementation

of the Active Army Unit Stop Loss/Stop Movement Program.

Soldiers who are impacted by stop loss/stop movement and assigned to units selected for deployment to Iraq and

Afghanistan will now receive their mandatory pre-separation counseling from Army Career and Alumni Program officials prior to their departure from their home station.

The counseling will allow Soldiers to receive an explanation of transition benefits and services at least 90 days prior to their separation date, said Jim Hoffman,

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2003 TIMELINE



2003 Year in Review

(Continued from Page 1)

at the event, according to Allmendinger, but the turnout was still "respectable."

Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond) student Jon Allen showed up four hours before the show to claim his spot front-row, center. "This is perfect," he said, not only describing his vantage point but also the Fort Monroe location chosen for the concert. "This is really a beautiful post, and I think it's really a nice thing to offer this for free."

"Having people walk up to me and say, 'This is incredible,' and what a great place Fort Monroe is for hosting the event, told me this was the right thing to do," Allmendinger said. And, while neither concert was a big moneymaker, the commander said he's convinced — from a morale and community relations standpoint — future shows are worth the investment. In fact, three concerts are being considered for 2004.

"They were successful in bringing in a large number of people," he added. "And I think more sponsors will recognize that and come on board, which will reduce our cost and make these events even more of a win-win for everyone."

New fitness center

An enormous pair of gold scissors and a large red, white and blue ribbon heralded another memorable moment of 2003. Diane Devens, IMA northeast region director, Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Browning, Post CSM, Paul Heilman, director of Monroe MWR, and Col. David Hansen, Army Corps of Engineers, were among those on hand during the grand opening of the newly remodeled post fitness center April 21.

At a cost of \$10 million, give or take, the complex was clearly designed as a state-of-the-art facility. "It's unbelievable," said Ron Finchum, facility manager, during an April interview with the Casemate. "The woodwork is oak, and all the design was done by hand, with a router — not manufactured. It's ... a beautiful place, with chandeliers and an outdoor patio overlooking the moat."

"I remember my first tour of the center," Browning said. "And I remember thinking how fitting it is to have a world-class facility for our world-class soldiers, civilians and families. I also remember feeling very excited for those soldiers dressed in their Army physical fitness uniform in anticipation of being the first to use the fitness center."

Since its opening day, the center has catered

to somewhere around 25,000 fitness buffs, according to Heilman. Patrons who drop by to use one of the meeting rooms, or the turnout for events like the Dec. 4 post Christmas tree-lighting ceremony — moved to the center's lobby due to inclement weather (see photos, page 6) — aren't included in that number.

"Not only is the fitness center a great place to exercise, it has been used for several events to include change of command receptions out on the second-floor patio, cholesterol screenings, officer and civilian spouse club fund programs and many organizations use the conference room for instructional training," Heilman said. "From many different standpoints, it's an excellent addition to the community."

Better barracks for single soldiers

Single and unaccompanied soldiers on Monroe also gave rave reviews for the newly renovated barracks that opened here in July. Built in the 1930s, building 87 (just inside the front gate) was given a 21st century facelift, with single and two bedroom suites featuring mini-kitchens and an additional full kitchen on the fourth floor. A large dayroom on its first floor includes a regulation-size pool table and a 50-inch television.

"I'm so proud of this command for the way it looks out for its single soldiers," Browning said. "Upkeep and renovation of the beautiful historic family quarters on Monroe could easily consume the budget, but the command team is mindful to keep our single soldiers' living conditions a priority as well. It's just the right way to do business."

Over the spring and summer, five new administrative buildings also opened in the area near the Post Exchange, providing new homes to activities like the TRADOC Chief of Information Office and sections of Joint Task Force Civil Support. Ground was broken on the new Youth Activities Center Annex last month. Post engineers are projecting completion of the \$649,920 facility by summer of 2004.

Focusing on the 'human element'

Getting away from infrastructure and back to the "human element" at Monroe, Allmendinger highlighted another of the more poignant moments during the year. It was a hot summer morning in September when community members came together to remember the tragic events of 9-11 with a Tolling of the Bells.

Following a brief benediction and remarks by the post commander, 30 soldier and DA civilian volunteers took turns ringing three hand bells in unison. At the completion of the service, approximately 90 minutes later, the bells had tolled 2,998 times — once for each person who has been confirmed or reported dead or missing as a result of the terrorist attack.

"You know it's interesting and maybe a little ironic that the 2003 observance, which was quite a bit smaller than what we did on the one-year anniversary, seemed to have more of an impact on a personal level," said Allmendinger, who was among the volunteer bell ringers during the event. "Part of it was the setting — nowhere on Fort Monroe will you feel more at peace than the Chapel of the Centurion — and the steady echo of those bells, but it was also a time to search your own thoughts about that day and those victims."

In a peculiar twist of fate, the chapel's congregation returned nine days later to, once again, reflect on a historic event and renew their faith in the face of tragedy. "I will never forget the church service held the Sunday after Hurricane Isabel," Allmendinger said.

"It was almost like going back in time 100 years: no lights; ladies fanning themselves with makeshift fans; singing hymns by request only ... and I mean the good ole' church songs; and holding candles up so the pianist could read her sheet music," he said. "It was all so comforting, and the community just embraced each other. We cried. We laughed. All of these experiences helped us to rebuild personally."

Touching memories

Other memories of Isabel are just as touching. He recalled the feeling of despair as he watched neighbors make futile attempts to move their vehicles away from the floodwaters. He remembered the "sheer physical power" of the water that continued to crash over the seawall until Fort Monroe became "one with the Chesapeake."

"The days immediately following were just indescribable. I'm sure everyone felt

it," the commander said. "The best you could muster was a blank stare at the devastation, and a feeling of sorrow for everyone around you. Their cars, their houses, their Christmas decorations that their kids made years ago ... just gone. And the one question was, 'Where do we start?'"

Allmendinger said the first course of action following the storm was clear: renew basic human services — emergency response, water, food, suitable shelter and, in the long run, utilities. He called for support from the Army, and water purification and mobile kitchen trailer units were on hand the day after the storm. His post engineers, operations specialists, medics, fire crews and even recreation experts went to work with the number one thought of helping families. Even neighbors with destruction of their own ventured out to lend a hand where needed.

A 'phoenix from the ashes'

"The entire community was like a phoenix rising from the ashes," Allmendinger said, borrowing a phrase from Greek mythology. "And, if there's anything we should remember about 2003, it's that very thing. This community pulled together and put this post back on its feet in a matter of days."

The events of Hurricane Isabel also made it easy for Allmendinger to identify the "most remarkable" people of the past year. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Reese, the former post chaplain who recently PCSed to Fort Bragg, N.C., was number one on the list.

"His caring for this community was demonstrated time and again over the past year," Allmendinger said. "After Isabel, he roamed door to door (accompanied by then deputy post chaplain Maj. Wilbert Harrison) to check on residents and make sure they were OK. He sat with them dur-

ing dinner at the CAC, and he helped them understand how they could deal with the emotional trauma. He earned our respect and our love."

Allmendinger also applauded the strength of Capt. Kelly Weinberg and his family as they endured his battle with cancer. "I learn from him every day," the commander said.

The 233rd Military Police Detachment as a whole also got a nod. Of them, Allmendinger remembered a flashlight beam through the window during the height of Isabel. "Even during that devastation, they were out there doing what they were sworn to do ... protect and serve," he said. "And they were out there driving through floodwater that crested the hood of the humvee. The professionalism of these soldiers is unquestionable."

The post commander also thanked his engineers "who willingly tackle any job, even those that go far beyond their job description." He also acknowledged the work of the various community and youth service employees on post.

"Something as simple as setting up a television set with Disney movies and cartoons seemed so monumental in returning a sense of normalcy to this community following the hurricane," he said. "And giving the children an opportunity to express their feelings about Isabel with art and a 30-foot banner was so important to the healing process. Those are also the sorts of things that I mean when I say we all pulled together."

Concurring with Allmendinger's kudos, Browning added a couple more "nominees" to the list of outstanding people in 2003. A small detachment of National Guard soldiers from C Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment was high on his honor roll. They deployed here in May as part of homeland defense mission.

National Guardsmen find a home

"These soldiers have epitomized the 'Army of One' slogan," Browning said. "Their transition onto Fort Monroe was seamless. Sgt. 1st Class (Timothy) Jones, the platoon sergeant, has been absolutely terrific as he transitioned his soldiers from weekend duty to active duty. And, in every way, they've become a welcomed part of our community."

Highlighting the teamwork that led to the 1-116th's win of the commander's cup during Soldier Appreciation Day Oct. 17, and the individ-

ual success of soldiers like Sgt. Robert Jones, who was among those who won post NCO of the Quarter during 2003, Browning called the unit's esprit de corps and outright professionalism a "tribute to the NCO corps enforcing the standards."

"These are great soldiers and they're doing an outstanding job," he said.

The sergeant major also offered pats on the back for Sgt. 1st Class Selvin Walker, post Equal Opportunity Advisor, and the Equal Employment Office efforts led by Faye Anderson. "We can't thank them enough for their continuing contributions toward our positive command climate and the many programs that bring harmony to the workplace and where we live."

A glimpse at 2004

About the only question remaining is, "What lies ahead for 2004?" And the answer, according to Allmendinger is, "almost a complete facelift for Fort Monroe."

"The hurricane actually had a bit of a silver lining in the form of additional funding," he said. "Thus, we were originally projecting the demolition of five of our outdated World War II buildings by the end of this fiscal year; now we're looking at taking down 20 of those buildings."

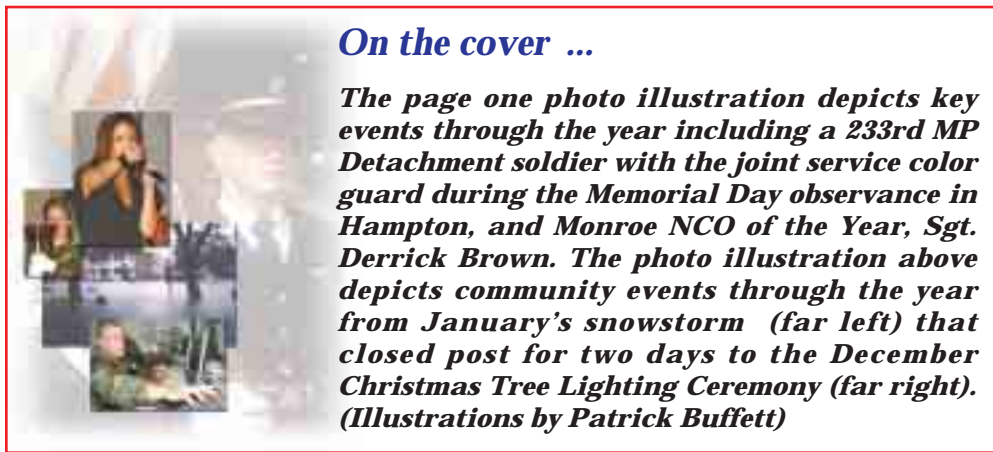
Allmendinger emphasized that suitable office space will be located for those displaced by the demolition. Other concerns will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, he said.

"The vacant housing units along Ingalls that everyone refers to as 'white elephants' are coming down as well," Allmendinger said. "That demolition is expected to be completed by mid-March."

Monroe has also received the preliminary go-ahead to begin drafting floor plans for new school-aged services and hourly child-care buildings. Previously housed in buildings at lower elevations adjacent to the seawall, the programs were displaced as a result of Isabel's flood damage.

"And we're also very anxious to begin demolition of the first half of Wherry Housing during this fiscal year in preparation for new family housing units that will begin going up in FY05," Allmendinger said. "We're talking three and four bedroom townhouses along the Chesapeake in the long run (construction will likely take two years to complete). It's just going to be an awe-

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SPORTS

Four soldiers qualify for Olympic Boxing Trials

BY TIM HIPPS

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (Army News Service, Dec. 16, 2003) – Four more soldiers qualified for the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team Trials by winning their weight divisions in the 2004 Armed Forces Boxing Championships Dec. 11 at French Creek Recreation Center.

Staff Sgt. Torrence Daniels (119 pounds), Pfc. Keith Mason (141), 2nd Lt. Boyd Melson (152) and Staff Sgt. Charles Leverette (201) will be boxing at the Olympic Trials, which are scheduled for Feb. 17-21 at Tunica, Miss.

Staff Sgt. DeAndrey Abron, who qualified for the trials in the Golden Gloves of America National Tournament of Champions in May, won the 178-pound Armed Forces title after boxing to a 14-14 tie against Marine Lance Cpl. Jacob Garretson. The winner of their rugged, four-round bout was determined by Abron's 67-50 advantage on raw punches.

Brothers Spc. Clarence Joseph (165) and Spc. Edward Joseph (152) qualified for the trials earlier in the year at the Golden Gloves and Police Athletic League National



Second Lt. Boyd Melson lands a right to the body of Sr. Airman John Askew on way to winning the 152-pound division of the 2004 Armed Forces Boxing Championships at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The referee stopped the contest at 1:36 of the fourth round with Melson leading 28-4.

Championships.

The boxers in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program are coached by Staff Sgt. Basheer Abdullah, who will lead Team

USA's boxing team into the 2004 Olympic Games at Athens, Greece.

The Army's good news doesn't stop there. Although women's boxing is not an Olympic sport, two female soldiers won Armed Forces crowns.

Spc. Christine Boilard of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., posted a 35-8 decision over Lance Cpl. Laura Barrow of Twentynine Palms, Calif., in the 119-pound division. Last year, Boilard won the 114-pound division.

Sgt. Jennifer Greb, a native of Baltimore stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, won a 47-12 decision over Marine Lance Cpl. Amanda Myers of Iwakuni, Japan.

"I thought the women did an excellent job," said Staff Sgt. Fareed Samad, who coaches the Army's female boxers. "They looked better in the fights than they do in practice. Greb was just outstanding. She has a right hand and a left hook that are so strong. Once we got her believing that she can go forward with those punches – 47 is a lot of points."

Two others settled for silver medals: Sgt. Cherie Retamozzo (125) of Fort Bragg, N.C., and Spc.

Danielle Miner (165) of Camp Carroll, Korea.

Melson, who graduated in May from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., won over a standing-room-only crowd of about 1,500 that chanted "L-T! L-T! L-T!" during his victory over Sr. Airman John Askew. Military police estimated they turned away another 500 folks at the door.

Melson forced Askew to take a standing eight-count in the second round and opened a cut below his left eye in the third. He was leading 16-2 after two rounds and 22-4 after the third, during which he twice floored Askew. The referee stopped the contest at 1:36 of the fourth round after Askew endured another standing-eight.

"He would've fell three more times if he wouldn't have held onto me with a bear hug," said Melson, 22, of White Plains, N.Y., who dedicated his victory to twin brothers Maj. Christopher Hart and Capt. Gerald Hart the night after their birthday. Christopher, who is deployed in Iraq, coached Melson at West Point. Gerald now coaches the

(See BOXING, Page 15)

3X7 NEXSTEP

3X7 U-Wrench It

YEAR (Continued from Page 11)

some thing, especially for those families who get to live there.”

Another very-near-term project being eyed by the post command group is designed to keep community members better informed about upcoming events and pertinent announcements.

“A command channel is something I’ve wanted for quite some time, and it looks like that’s going to finally come on line in the next month or so,” Allmendinger said. Installation of the software occurred Dec. 17, and initial testing is currently being conducted. Once up and running, the program of community postings will air on Channel 47 only on Fort Monroe.

“We’re also going to kick off a Fort Monroe beautification project in January,” Allmendinger said. “The working title at present is ‘Project Pride.’

“It will be a way for us to bring additional recognition to the many community members who contribute to the beauty of Fort Monroe each and every day, and we’re going to use it to encourage even more folks to take part in that effort,” the colonel said. “The overall message is, whether you live here or work here, this is your home. So it’s important that there’s a sense of pride on this installation. Community has to be a part of what we do here.”

Casemate newspaper
2004 schedule

Deadlines for submission of stories to the Casemate is **noon Friday**, one week before publication.

*Publication and story deadline dates for 2004:

Vol.25 #	Deadline	Issue date
No. 1	Jan. 2*	Jan. 9
No. 2	Jan. 16*	Jan. 23
No. 3	Jan. 30	Feb. 6
No. 4	Feb. 13*	Feb. 20
No. 5	Feb. 27	Mar. 5
No. 6	Mar. 12	Mar. 19
No. 7	Mar. 26	Apr. 2
No. 8	Apr. 9	Apr. 16
No. 9	Apr. 23	Apr. 30
No. 10	May 7	May 14
No. 11	May 21	May 28
No. 12	June 4	June 11
No. 13	June 18	June 25
No. 14	July 9	July 16**
No. 15	July 23	July 30
No. 16	Aug. 6	Aug. 13
No. 17	Aug. 20	Aug. 27
No. 18	Sept. 3*	Sept. 10
No. 19	Sept. 17	Sept. 24
No. 20	Oct. 1	Oct. 8
No. 21	Oct. 15	Oct. 22
No. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5
No. 23	Nov. 12	Nov. 19
No. 24	Nov. 26*	Dec. 3
No. 25	Dec. 10	Dec. 17

* Deadlines falling on training or other holidays are moved forward to noon, the last duty day of the week before publication.

** Indicates extended, three-week break between publications.

For more information, call Connie Smalls, editor, at 788-3520; or Pat Buffett or Pat Radcliffe, assistant editors, at 788-3208 and 788-3531, respectively.

4 X 14 Verizon Wireless

Moat notes

Christmas services

- Protestant: Christmas Eve, 6 to 8 p.m., Post Chapel
- Episcopal: Christmas Eve, 11 p.m., Post Chapel
- Catholic: Christmas Eve, 5 and 10 p.m., St. Mary's
- Christmas Day: 10 a.m., St. Mary's

For more information, call the Chapel Center at 788-2611 or St. Mary's Star of the Sea at 722-9855

Toy assemblers

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Tidewater Chapter 48 will assemble Christmas gifts (such as bikes and swing sets) for kids in a project they have dubbed "Tools 4 Tots." This is an initiative to help spouses with a loved one serving overseas during the holidays. Assembly dates are Dec. 19 and 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will be held in the parking lot of Boone Clinic at the Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek (NAVPHIBASE Little Creek just outside of gate 4).

The veterans help is available to the general public, not just military personnel. They will also pick up and transport large items for families. For more information or to request help, call 498-2541.

Toddler Time play group

The Soldier and Family Support Center sponsors a "Toddler Time" playgroup that meets every Monday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (except on holidays) in the gymnasium of the Community Activities Center. Children under the age of six are welcome. Tents, tunnels, balls, pull toys and other fun things are available for the children to use.

Toddler Time is designed to help children develop their social skills by providing unstructured playtime. It can lead to new friendships for the participating kids and their parents. The program gives moms and dads the chance to meet other parents and provides them the chance to talk to other adults during the day. It's a great opportunity for parents to share experiences, swap stories and ask for advice about parenting issues.

Toddler Time is open to active duty service members, family members, DA civilians and retirees. To register or obtain additional information, please contact Anne Shanks, family advocacy program education specialist, at 788-3511 or 3878 or shanksap@monroe.army.mil.

CCC's Crystal Bingo

The Casemate Community Connection presents the annual Crystal Bingo at the Bay Breeze Community Center Jan. 8. Social hour begins at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30.

Two entrees will be available:

baked rosemary chicken and top round with steamed vegetables, potatoes, salad, dessert and beverage. Bingo starts right after lunch.

Call Barb Patterson at 223-7499 by Jan. 4 for reservations. Visit us on the web at www.monroeccc.com.

1-2-3 Magic workshops

In January, the Soldier and Family Support Center will present two workshops featuring the childhood discipline program 1-2-3 Magic. This award-winning parenting program provides no-nonsense methods for disciplining children between the ages of 2 and 12. It also presents ways to encourage children to start doing the things their parents want them to do. Each participant who completes the program will receive a copy of the best-selling book 1-2-3 Magic.

The first 1-2-3 Magic workshop will consist of two, two-hour sessions from 9-11 a.m. on Jan. 7 and 14 in the Soldier and Family Support Center classroom. Limited free childcare is available at the Child Development Center during these sessions and must be requested at the time of registration.

The second workshop will be presented during three brown-bag lunch sessions from 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. on Jan. 15, 22 and 29 in the Soldier and Family Support Center classroom. Light refreshments will be provided.

The workshops are open to active duty service members, family members, DA civilians and retirees. To register or obtain additional information, contact Anne Shanks, Family Advocacy Program educational specialist, at 788-3511/3878 or shanksap@monroe.army.mil.

The Soldier and Family Support Center is located on post in Quarters 1, 151 Bernard Road.

Emancipation Day

From noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 10, the Newsome House Museum and Cultural Center will host Emancipation Day, a celebration of the traditional African-American observance in honor of the 1863 issuance of President Abraham Lincoln's historic proclamation.

The Civil Guard, a boy's drum and bugle corps re-enactment group, will perform period music and drills under the direction of costumed interpreter Gregory Cherry, who will relate the experiences of a U.S. Colored Troop soldier.

Admission to the house is free, but a \$2 donation is suggested.

The Newsome House is located at the corner of 28th Street and Oak Avenue in the heart of Newport News' historic East End neighborhood. From I-64 take the Downtown Newport News exit to I-664. From I-664 take the Aberdeen Road exit. At the stoplight at the end of the ramp follow the museum's



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Holiday open house ... During frame and crafts shop open house Dec. 9, Raymond Yohn (left) and Ingeborg Coffey discuss ceramic house completed by Coffey.
Prize winners at the open house were Jim Winters - ornamental Christmas tray; and Maj. Sarah Carey, Justine Horton and Manuela Bracey - gift certificate to the frame and craft shop for \$25.

signs. The site is one mile away. Parking is available on site.

For more information, call (757) 247-2360 or visit www.newsome-house.org.

Literacy program

Peninsula READS strives to provide adult education, literacy and services to build a community where everyone can read. Volunteer tutors are needed to help adult learners improve basic reading and writing skills, and to provide survival English skills to foreign-born adults. An orientation for interested volunteers will be held at the Peninsula READS office in Hampton on Jan. 8. The morning session is 10 a.m. to noon and the evening session is 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, call 838-5300.

Holidays of centuries past

Experience holidays of centuries past at the Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center, living museums that tell the story of our nation's beginnings.

At Jamestown, a film and special guided tours compare English Christmas customs of the period with how the season may have been observed at America's first permanent English colony.

At the Yorktown Victory Center, visitors can learn about winter camp life and hear accounts of Christmas during the war at a recreated Continental Army encampment.

A Colonial Christmas will be held 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 19 through Jan. 4 at both locations. Both museums are closed on Christmas and New Year's days.

A combination ticket to the Jamestown Settlement and the

Yorktown Victory Center or separate tickets are available.

For more information, call (757) 253-4838 or (888) 593-4682, or visit www.historyisfun.org.

'Crazy About Quilts'

Endview Plantation will host "Crazy About Quilts" from 10 a.m. to noon on Jan. 3. Children ages 8-12 will hear the tales "The Keeping Quilt" and "Sweet Sarah and the Freedom Quilt." The day will also include a quilt craft and a snack. The cost is \$10, and reservations are required.

For more information, call (757) 887-1862 or visit www.endview.org.

At the Movies

Showing at the
Langley Air Force Base Theater

Friday, Dec. 20
7 p.m. - The Matrix Revolutions (R)

Saturday, Dec. 20
2 p.m. - Elf (PG)

Friday, Dec. 26
7 p.m. - Love Actually (R)

Saturday, Dec. 27
2 p.m. - Looney Tunes Back in Action (PG)

Saturday, Dec. 27
Radio (PG)

All movies at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Adults - \$2; Children 6 - 12 years old - \$1.50; and Children under 6 - free. (If a child under 6 occupies a seat at a G-rated movie, admission is \$1.50.) Special movie showings are available. Contact John Low at 766-1237; or

BOXING (Continued from page 12)

boxing club there. Melson said he wrote “Athens 04” on a board during his sophomore year at West Point, his first year in the ring. Now he “can’t believe” he’s headed to the Olympic Trials. Abdullah, meanwhile, is working to get Melson into WCAP. Daniels, a WCAP boxer at Fort Carson, Colo., got the Army team rolling with a 38-10 victory over Airman 1st Class Carlos Casasola, who opened like gangbusters in the first fight of the night. Daniels backed Casasola into the ropes in the second round and forced a standing eight-count before the airman was saved by the bell. “I was able to execute my game plan and show my level of skill,” said Daniels, 29, of Muskegon, Mich., who won his second consecutive Armed Forces title. “I’ve been striving for this for a very long time. I’ve been training in the Army to pursue my Olympic dream. This is just one chapter of the dream.” Abdullah was relieved to get Daniels qualified for the trials. “When he’s on, he’s on,” Abdullah said. “He’s one of the best 119-pounders in the nation. I feel very good about getting him on the [Olympic] team.” Fort Carson’s Mason was pumped up and razor sharp during his 25-4 demolition of Air Force Airman 1st Class Robert Luna Jr. for the 141-pound crown. He knocked Luna down in the second round with an overhand right and landed several crisp combinations to the airman’s head, forcing a standing eight-count in the fourth round. Mason also landed several solid right hooks in one of his finest bouts of the year. “To be qualified for the Olympic Trials is a blessing,” said Mason, 21, of Columbus, Ohio. “I’ve been thinking about this forever, and I was prepared. I’d already made all my

plans for going to the trials. I put the pressure on myself, and I came out and delivered.” Fort Carson’s Lev-erette, 30, of Brent, Ala., won the heavy-weight crown with a 13-5 decision over Marine Cpl. Roderick Prevost of Camp Pendleton, Calif. Two more soldiers reached the finals but settled for silver medals. Spc. Mahlon Ker-

wick of Fort Carson dropped an 18-13 deci-sion to Airman 1st Class Hector Ramos. They were tied 12-12 entering the final round before Ramos’ stick-and-move tactics prevailed in the 132-

pound finale. In the final bout of the evening, super heavyweight Sgt. Deutsch Puu of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, lost a 31-13 decision to Navy Mas-ter at Arms 2nd Class Israel Spencer of Seal Beach, Calif. *(Editor’s note: Tim Hipps writes for the U.S. Army Communi-ty and Family Sup-port Center.)*

5 X 12 SUNCOM

HEROES

(Continued from page 8)



Staff Sgt. Heath Calhoun, a 3/327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division Soldier who lost both legs in a rocket propelled grenade attack Nov. 7 in Mosul, Iraq, signs a remembrance book in the Pentagon 9-11 Memorial as his wife Tiffany looks on. Calhoun was one of 50 Soldiers getting treatment from Walter Reed Army Medical Center who visited the Pentagon Dec. 17.

ACAP

(Continued from page 14)

ACAP program director. Many installations integrate ACAP pre-separation counseling into the pre-deployment process; however, soldiers need not wait until then to begin receiving ACAP transition services, he said. "The effectiveness of ACAP services is directly linked to the time soldiers spend preparing for their transition from active duty," Hoffman said. As time permits during the pre-deployment period, soldiers should visit their local ACAP center and sign up for the transition and job assistance services available to them after they have received the initial pre-separation counsel-

ing, Hoffman said. ACAP also offers online services that soldiers can take advantage of during down time while they are deployed; however, to access these resources, they must have already received the pre-separation counseling. "While we understand that preparing for military operations in a hostile environment is vitally important, making the decision to leave the Army and preparing for that eventuality is also important," Hoffman said. The Reserve Component Unit Stop Loss Policy implemented in the fall of 2002 remains in effect. National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who remained with their comrades still serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Spec. Cherri Johnson was a 10th Mountain Division Soldier with the Joint Logistics Command 180 in Bagram, Afghanistan, when disease and an injury to her shoulder forced her to be medically evacuated for treatment. "It's funny – when I was first told I was going over there, I didn't want to go," Johnson said. "The people and the place grew on me and I didn't want to come back when they told me I had to go. I wish I was back with my unit right now." Staff Sgt. Josh Olson, a squad leader with 1/187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, lost his right leg Oct. 28 from a rocket propelled grenade when his unit

was ambushed near Telfar, Iraq. Asked if he had a message for his buddies still in Iraq, Olson replied with his brigade motto, "Let valor not fail!" Spec. Hilario Bermanis, 3/325th Airborne Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, lost both legs and an arm June 10 when the weapons turning point he was guarding was attacked by an RPG. He said he felt relieved that Saddam Hussein had been captured as it likely means American troops will face fewer attacks. In OIF, there have been 1,889 Soldiers wounded in action and another 7,694 disease/non-battle related injuries through Dec. 12. In OEF, 164 Soldiers have been wounded in action and another 1,819 incapacitated through disease/non-battle related injuries.

TROPHIES

(Continued from page 7)

Capt. Bruce Frame, a Central Command spokesman. "Taking articles from those countries sends the wrong message." Service members with questions should work through the chain of command, CENTCOM officials said, adding that service members will be given ample briefings on what is allowed and what is not. In the case of Iraq, unit commanders will brief service members on the policy before leaving for Kuwait. In Kuwait, military police will explain the policy and will permit an amnesty period before searching gear and vehicles. In the United

States, U.S. Customs Service officials will examine individual gear. In Afghanistan, unit commanders will explain the policy, and MPs there also will explain it and offer an amnesty period before the service members board the planes. Again, Customs will examine gear and baggage upon return to the United States. The same prohibitions pertain to American civilians serving in the Central Command area of operations. Other federal laws pertain to other items. For example, service members cannot bring back

plants, animals or other organic materials. Some Marines returning from Afghanistan in April 2002, for example, tried to bring back the skulls of sheep attached to their guidons. The Customs agents met the Marines as they landed on the beach at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and confiscated the items. No one can bring back antiquities into the United States, and of course, no one can bring drugs or drug paraphernalia into the United States. The overall prohibition does not pertain to souvenirs that can be legally imported into the United States, officials said.

3 X 3 1/2 ECPI

3 X 3 1/2 Extended Suburban